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BOROUGH OF PENZANCE



THE

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1951



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
W. K. DUNSCOMBE.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :
A. T. HARPER.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :
R. E. WARBURTON.
W. G. STEVENSON.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,

PENZANCE.

AUGUST, 1952.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF PENZANCE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In introducing the Annual Report for 1951 I have the sad duty of referring, first of all, to the loss the town and the whole area sustained in the death of the former Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hadfield.

As the first whole-time Medical Officer of Health in the County he had to be a pioneer and the area is now reaping the benefit of his drive and foresight. It is only fitting, therefore, that as his immediate successor who has benefitted greatly from his advice I should pay this tribute.

The most important event of the year was the taking of the first Census for 20 years on April 8th. So far the volume for Cornwall has not been published so that as yet it is not possible to present details to the Council. Undoubtedly the conclusions and inferences to be drawn must have extensive repercussions on Council and County policy, notably of course, in dealing with old people but the impact of the Census figures must also have a profound effect on the whole Country as already they demonstrate that very soon less and less younger people will be left who will have to work harder and harder to keep more and more old people in even moderate comfort if all the present social services are to continue, and all this at a time when world markets are becoming more fiercely competitive than ever. We must therefore look forward to an inevitable fall in our standards of living with all its repercussions.

The general health of the inhabitants of the town did not appear to be materially affected by the epidemics of measles and scarlet fever to which reference is made below, and while the Drift Scheme made slow but steady progress, we were fortunate that although the Boscathnoe results were often not good, evil did not befall us. This supply cannot be improved too soon.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation shown by my colleagues in other departments and I am deeply grateful for the excellent assistance given to me by all the staff of the Health Department; the whole team led by the Chief Sanitary Inspector have been of the greatest help to me.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Borough.

Area—3,578 acres.

Population—20,030. (Registrar-General's estimate, Mid-year 1951).
Census figure—20,648.

Rateable Value—£131,617 Product of Penny Rate—£526.10s.3d.

<i>No. of Livebirths.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate 	119	130	249
Illegitimate 	9	14	23
<i>Rate per 1,000 population:</i>	13.6		

<i>No. of Stillbirths:</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate 	3	7	10
Illegitimate 	—	—	—
<i>Rate per 1,000 total births:</i>	35.5		

<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	148	164	312
<i>Rate per 1,000 population:</i>	15.6		

<i>No. of Infant Deaths.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate 	6	5	11
Illegitimate 	—	—	—
<i>Rate per 1,000 live births:</i>	40.4		

Maternal Deaths: 1

COMMENT.

(a) *The Census.* 1951 was notable for the holding of the first census for 20 years. The date chosen being April 8th.

The figure of population given by the Registrar-General's office for this Borough was 20,648, but so far it is not possible to indicate the numbers in the various age groups. This is absolutely vital for a proper appreciation of the requirements for the various categories and age groups of the population and there is no doubt that in this County the Census will show a high proportion of persons over 65. The effect of these figures in the provisions for the welfare of old people, notably in hospital accommodation and housing will be very great indeed. At present there is a general refusal to face the already obvious though unpleasant facts and we are due for a considerable shock.

(b) *Infant Mortality Rate.* Fortunately, this is considerably less than last year, about which I made some severe remarks, but it was pointed out then that as the numbers were small each year they must be subject to very considerable fluctuations. Hence, though the rate is very much better this year, it still gives no grounds for complacency, since many other places far less favourably placed from the climatic point of view can show as good a rate, and since it has been shown, as the result of numerous investigations, that climate

does have an effect on infant mortality, it must follow all the more that our efforts to eliminate the other factors involved must be increased.

(c) The mid-year population estimate is different from that given by the Census, and in any case shows a reduction from the year 1950.

SECTION B
CAUSES OF DEATH.

						<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..				4	4	8
Tuberculosis, other sites	..	..	..	..		1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..				—	1	1
Cancer of stomach	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	11
Cancer of lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	7
Cancer of breast	..	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
Cancer of uterus	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Cancer of other sites	..	..	..	..	..	17	14	31
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..				15	22	37
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	13	9	22
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	8
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	26	38	64
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	6	8	14
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	7	8	15
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..				1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	3	—	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	3	5	8
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	7	—	7
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..				12	18	30
Accident (Motor)	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	5
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
All causes	..	..	..	..	..	148	164	312

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	41	53	94
2.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	27	25	52
3.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...				15	22	37
4.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7	8	15
5.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...				4	4	8

(A comparison with previous years appears in Appendix C.)

SECTION C

CLIMATE 1951.

	DRY	WET	MAX.	MIN.	RAIN	SUNSHINE
	DEGREES				INS.	HRS.
JANUARY ..	45.1	43.8	49	41	6.10	57.6
FEBRUARY ..	43.9	42.3	50	38	5.64	132.1
MARCH ..	45.3	43.6	51	43	5.39	123.8
APRIL ..	49.0	46.8	53	42	2.62	209.6
MAY ..	53.4	50.8	58	47	2.86	218.6
JUNE ..	60.5	57.0	65	52	.59	242.5
JULY ..	65.7	61.4	70	56	1.07	261.8
AUGUST ..	61.8	59.3	69	54	4.87	192.6
SEPTEMBER ..	60.3	58.6	63	55	4.24	109.3
OCTOBER ..	55.1	49.9	59	49	2.39	126.3
NOVEMBER ..	51.2	49.1	55	44	7.33	82.4
DECEMBER ..	48.7	46.6	52	44	4.97	44.8

A point of interest is that the night minimum fell below 32 degrees only three times in the year and snow was lying on only one occasion.

<i>Mean Temperatures.</i>	53.3	50.8	59	47
<i>Yearly averages for rain and sun.</i>	1951			<i>Average.</i>
Rainfall		48.07		42.18
Sunshine		1801.4		1733.6

I am indebted to the Borough Meteorologist, Mr. J. H. I. Cable, A.L.A., for the above figures.

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Water Supply.

The following is an estimate of houses (a) without a water supply in the borough, (b) those with a standpipe supply, and (c) with mains supply, and shows the improvement in mains supply in 1951.

(a) No Public Supply		(b) From Standpipe		(c) Main Supply	
1950	28		85		5928
1951	28		82		6025

The above figures are supplied by the courtesy of the Borough Engineer.

The number of samples taken for analysis was as follows:—

Samples	Supplies					Private Domestic
	Drift Domestic		Boscathnoe Domestic		Others Domestic	
Raw	—	—	—	—	2	2
Treated ..	9	1	52	51	6	—
Chemical ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Plumbo-Solvency ..	2	—	5	—	—	—

(a) *General.* The wet summer ensured that supplies were adequate but it must be pointed out that consumption for the borough is now over 40 gallons per head and that in any dry year supplies will inevitably be severely restricted.

(b) *Drift Scheme.* Last year I criticised the manoeuvrings of the Local Authorities associated in this scheme, so it is pleasing to state that matters are a great deal more satisfactory now and a fair amount of progress has been made. We were fortunate in having the advice of very senior officers of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and by the end of the year the consultant for the Dam and headworks had been appointed by the West Penwith R.D.C. and St. Just U.D.C. also as consultant for the supplies in their areas, while an extensive survey of lines of main, site of dam, etc., had been made.

We are now awaiting the report of the consulting engineers with very deep interest since although the urgent necessity for the Borough is to get on with the building of the dam at once, it is obvious that the other two authorities are concerned to see that the mains in their areas can be filled immediately the dam is completed. It seems however, inevitable now, that rearmament will interfere greatly with the supply of the requisite materials and the financial crisis with providing the money.

(c) *Boscathnoe.* In every report so far I have criticised the periodic bad results obtained from this open reservoir, but in the past year the results have been so unsatisfactory so frequently as to give rise to the greatest possible concern. The dangers have been pointed out to the Water and Public Health Committees repeatedly and their reports to the Council over a considerable period make quite certain that the knowledge of these unsatisfactory circumstances is known to all the Council and through its Minutes to the Public. Proposals are going forward for a proper covered service reservoir and chlorinating plant, but all too slowly. Now, of course, the financial and rearmament crisis will in all probability further delay matters. The sum of this is that the town cannot look forward to having completely safe water from this source for at least another two years as the present chloramine treatment is unable in many instances to overcome the existing contamination. This is most unsatisfactory to a Borough of the standing of Penzance.

(d) *Gulval Supply.* I have also pointed out before the unsatisfactory position regarding this supply whereby one minute, the village is given filtered chlorinated water from Drift, and almost the next one has to rely on a supply from untreated springs, while the covering of the reservoir is so dilapidated as to be dangerous. Each year proposals for properly covering the reservoir get "liquidated" at Estimate time in the fond hope that the Drift Scheme will come through. The council should realise that that idea will not eventuate

now for several years and should, therefore, be prepared to spend the necessary money on Gulval supply.

(2) Sewerage.

(a) *General.* It is pleasing to be able to report the early completion of the Gulval Sewerage Scheme and the connection of a number of houses to the Sewer. Unfortunately, difficulty has arisen in the one place it might have been thought that satisfactory sewer connections should be made at the earliest moment possible. I refer to the Gulval school where, in spite of very strong representations, the County Council programme of school sanitation improvements seems to have disregarded the fact that the Borough was spending a very substantial amount of money in providing the sewer, with the result that the school **may** be connected up sometime in 1952 but even this is problematical. It is simply astounding that such a fundamental matter of school hygiene can thus be left to chance.

(b) *Newlyn and Mousehole.* The position mentioned last year at these two places still obtains and though the replanning of Newlyn has been holding matters up it should now be possible to look at these two spots of special interest objectively and consider what should be done to eliminate the undoubted nuisances which exist in sewers discharging into their harbours.

(c) *Sheffield and Paul.* I am glad to record the completion of the scheme for the sewerage of the villages of Paul and Sheffield. All that now remains is for the owners to connect to the sewer and thus give themselves or their tenants the benefit of the water carriage system that has so long been denied them. Up to December 31st 22 properties had been connected up.

(3) Infectious Diseases.

The year was marked by epidemics of two different diseases, measles and scarlet fever.

(a) *Measles.* This was probably the greatest epidemic the town has ever experienced and in the months of March to May, no less than 459 cases were notified. Since without question a number of other cases occurred to which no doctor was called, some idea of the extent of the epidemic can be gained. Fortunately, complications were very few.

(b) *Scarlet Fever.* Everyone knows or has heard of this disease, the fundamental features being the development of a sore throat and a rash. What, however, is not generally known is that the same organism can cause sore throats without any rash but, sometimes, with other complications, running ears, kidney disease, etc. It is now becoming a matter of considerable discussion in medical circles whether in fact there is any use at all in making the disease plus rash notifiable with all the consequences that this may entail, while a practically identical disease, equally capable of causing complications is not.

However this may be, from late spring till the end of the year, we have had cases notified from almost all parts of the borough. The disease was really part of an epidemic which affected nearly all the area of the combined districts with the exception of Hayle, and sometimes its manifestations were so vague as to give rise to considerable doubt whether in fact it was scarlet fever or not.

In Penzance it appeared to have two phases, one up to the beginning of the summer school holidays and the second when the Autumn term commenced. It affected mostly children from 5—11, though some adults contracted the disease and, remarkably, among these were three dining car attendants of British Railways. This fact was so unusual that every possible source was investigated to see how they could have been linked, but without avail, though two occurred in the second phase (October).

(c) *Diphtheria*. Immunisation proceeded steadily but we received a sharp reminder that the disease is still prevalent and virulent in the death of a child who had not been immunised, while another school child had quite a severe attack although she had been immunised. Since, therefore, the organism itself is still very much with us and virulent, it is almost a mathematical certainty that as more children get immunised those that are unprotected are likely to get an intensive dose and we must, therefore, expect that then fatal cases will occur. The corollary is, of course, the need for parents to have their children immunised before they are a year old and again when they commence school.

(4) **National Health Service Act. Part III.**

This is the part of the Act administered by the County Council. In consecutive years it has been the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to criticise the much too centralised control of a service which, since it deals with the public, should not be subject to delay and red tape to the extent it is.

Fortunately, there is now a trend to a considerable lessening of centralised control from the official point of view, though even now each project proceeds at a speed which can best be described as majestic.

(5) **National Assistance Act. Section 47.**

Although comment on this is especially requested, there is nothing further to report on the actual number of cases brought to the notice of the Justices. Four further applications had to be made to deal with the case previously mentioned as it is in the person's own interest to remain in hospital. In the last report I mentioned that the necessity for application for renewal at regular three monthly periods could never have been intended, and it is obvious that some alteration in the law must be made as there must be hundreds of similar cases all over the Country.

(6) Problem Families.

Up till now insufficient attention has been given to these. The sentimentalists seem to be of the opinion that any family life is better than none but in many such cases the family is beyond redemption. The father is frequently a drunken waster, too idle to do any regular work, the mother a dirty slut who is, in addition, worn out by her usually numerous progeny. These, in turn, are the despair of saints because of their bad attendance at school or uncleanness, and all too often come by reason of their anti-social conduct into the hands of the police, the elder children being taught to steal, while the older girls form undesirable associations. The nation can no longer afford to regard these people with the amused tolerance which has been customary and though, in some instances, attempts have been made to rehabilitate the mother by accommodation in a special type of home, of which there are all too few, this deals with much less than half the case, as the problem father and the numerous children are still left. Some form of compulsory rehabilitation for the father would do a great deal of good to all.

(7) Housing.

The Council built 87 houses and 7 were built by private enterprise. This was, however, without much effect on the general position as can easily be seen in the Table (Appendix E) and this year the pattern which actually was showing last year has become much clearer, which is that the general condition of houses is deteriorating much faster than the replacements can be built, and further, that the replacements are so expensive that there is an increasing difficulty in getting persons from the unsatisfactory houses to go into new houses since the rents are so much higher.

Naturally, the new houses are very much better than the ones such people are occupying, but as the cost of living gets greater, many are inclined to put up with conditions to which they are accustomed, rather than suffer the substantial reduction in their standards of living which would be caused by paying rents of the new houses.

Repairs. It must be obvious, therefore, that as the cost of building continues to increase, far greater attention must be given to the question of repairs to existing houses, to bring them up to a reasonable standard. The provisions of Section 20, Housing Act, 1936, would seem to be suitable in this time of crisis and it is hoped that owners will be willing to take advantage of it, but also some considerable government drive is required to make as many existing houses as possible reasonably fit.

Unfortunately, Housing has been so bedevilled by politics that it has become a political football and no party is mentally big enough to exclude it. The result is that we are now getting to the stage of "new houses at all costs" rather than fit houses at reasonable costs—an entirely different matter.

Slum Clearance. It follows from the previous comments that the repercussions on any slum clearance programme must be disastrous. During the year 5 houses were represented under Section 11 and 1 under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, but of those represented under Section 11, in all cases undertakings were accepted not to re-let in lieu of making Demolition Orders. To make the comparison even more striking, since 1947, 12 representations under Section 11 have been made with the following results:—

<i>Demolition Orders Made</i>	<i>Undertakings not to re-let accepted.</i>
1(+)	11

NOTE—(+)(*Undertaking not to re-let originally accepted, but broken by owner, and Demolition Order made subsequently*).

I must say that I consider the Housing Committee are far too ready to accept undertakings not to re-let for premises totally unfit for any purpose. The owners subsequently apply to use them as stores but nothing is done to put them in any state of repair.

It should be said at once that this abuse of the provisions of the Housing Act is most certainly not confined to Cornwall but what happens in such cases is that the premises then become more and more an eyesore and rat-ridden. Thus, by their actions, the Housing Committee are tending to perpetuate the very conditions which the Public Health Committee are under a statutory duty to eliminate. It is only fair, however, to say that recently the Committee have begun to realise this so that, in future, it is hoped that there will be no need for similar comments.

Housing of Old People. No apology is made for referring to this in each Annual Report, as events simply make the need more manifest. It is, however, bound up with the Council's policy of the acquisition of sites and I have mentioned before now how, at present, many buildings in the centre of the town are becoming more and more unsatisfactory, while the Council's housing estates are built further and further out. Each time it means that good agricultural land is being taken away from its proper purpose of producing food. Repeated efforts have, therefore, been made to get the Housing Committee to take a realistic attitude as regards the slum clearance areas in the town and by compulsory purchase clear them and utilise the sites for flats. It would then be possible to provide a number of single bedrooms or bed sitting-rooms for old people who would then not be alone. A specially suitable site for a large block of flats is in the St. Clare Street/Prospect Place area, though there are others as well, provided a sufficiently broad and far-sighted view is taken.

Unfortunately, the taking up of good agricultural land is general all over the country and we have now got to the idiotic stage that, while this is going on, farmers have to be paid a subsidy to get

marginal land into production. At a time when it is "plough or starve," these imbecilities should be stopped. Any business which allowed its one asset—in this case the land—to be frittered away in such a manner would justly be bankrupt in about five minutes.

(8) Abattoir.

This project can now be regarded as dead. The secrecy with which originally it was surrounded by the Ministry of Food has thus been shown as merely stupid and it only irritated unnecessarily the other Local Authorities in the Area. If it is required at all it would, therefore, be far better for the Council to use the site for housing or some other purpose. It should be obvious, therefore, that some considerable improvements should be carried out to the existing slaughterhouses.

(9) Camping Sites.

I referred to this last year and the matter came to the Public Health Committee who took a completely unrealistic view and did not favour the provision of any site. The Housing Committee on the other hand, with the bitter experience of having too few houses for too many people, supported the idea. The Council must really begin to realise that caravanning is going to be a **permanent** form of holiday and it therefore behoves them to see that sites are provided if the town is to benefit from the number of tourists that proper caravan sites well popularised would bring. In this town there is still too much a mentality that wants the visitor's money but not his face. Since 1953 is Coronation year we can look forward to a tremendous influx of visitors after the event. The need for speed in deciding the camping sites and in providing the requisite hard standing, toilet facilities, etc. is, therefore, all the more evident.

(10) Swimming Pool.

This is one of the town's outstanding assets, but at present, does not present the inviting appearance that it could, and should. The pool is a very large one and on account of its low level cannot be filled properly each day on neap tides while the muddy shaly bottom is not conducive to the high standard of cleanliness now demanded. The Council should therefore, go in for a steady increase in the concreted area each year so that a filtration and chlorination plant can be installed as it would be useless at present. Also, if the pool is made to conform to international metric standards of length and depth, its attractions would be very greatly enhanced.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1951.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
PENZANCE.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF PENZANCE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report which contains particulars of the work of the Sanitary Department during the year ending 31st December, 1951.

There were no changes in staff during the year, nor in the division of duties amongst the Sanitary Inspectors. One Inspector was engaged almost entirely on meat inspection at the various slaughterhouses, and at the distribution depot, and it should be emphasised that only one-third of this work was done on behalf of the borough, the remainder being for the three neighbouring authorities.

With the ever increasing demands of the general public on the services of the staff it has been difficult to keep abreast with the routine work, but no sanitarian would deprecate this growing desire for technical advice on matters relating to environmental hygiene. It is rather regarded as being part and parcel of the job in a more enlightened age.

The operation of the Council's Housing Points Scheme also increased the demands on the time of the sanitary staff and the department has played its part in endeavouring to demonstrate to the long list of applicants that justice has been done in the award of points.

The total number of inspections, for all purposes, made during the year amounted to 3,984, and 50 preliminary notices and 8 statutory notices were served. In addition, numerous letters were addressed to owners, agents and occupiers of premises in connection with nuisances and complaints. Once again I have to report that much of the work classified as "nuisance" should rightly have been dealt with in a more comprehensive manner under the provisions of the Housing Act. The task of holding the balance between the rights of the tenant and the capabilities of the owner to fulfil his obligations with a disproportionate rent is becoming increasingly more difficult.

Food and Drugs Act Administration.

(a) *Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.* With the improvement in the supply position, sales of ice cream increased and, although the number of manufacturers on the register was reduced to 9, two more premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, making a total of 41 ice cream vendors.

The improvement in supplies resulted in the raising of the standard for fat content of ice cream and, during the year, the 5% minimum became legally enforceable. The Council decided to continue the sampling of ice cream for fat examination, although the County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority.

The wide variation in results which was so apparent in 1950 was equally noticeable in 1951, the lowest being only 2.1%, and the highest 12.1%. Of 32 samples tested, 9 were below 5%; 16 between 5% and 8%; 6 between 8% and 10%. These results were reported to the County Sampling Officer.

During the year 81 samples were also submitted to the laboratory at Truro for grading purposes with the following results:—

No. returned in Grade 1	...	47 or 58%
No. returned in Grade 2	...	18 or 22%
No. returned in Grade 3	...	14 or 17%
No. returned in Grade 4	...	2 or 3%

This is by far the best record for any year since the regulations came into force.

(b) *Milk and Dairies Regulations.* In the report for 1950 it was possible to record the excellent progress which had been made towards procuring a bottled milk supply for the Borough and this did, in fact, come into being on January 2nd, 1951, when the Primrose Dairy, St. Erth, undertook to provide all retailers, not already receiving bottled milk, with milk pasteurised and bottled at the St. Erth factory. Since that date the only loose milk retailed in the Borough has been sold at a producer's premises and at a dairy in the vicinity of the quay.

This achievement has resulted in a very considerable reduction in the number of producers of milk sending supplies into the Borough and it has been possible to take more frequent samples from the remainder, with a consequent improvement in control. During the year, 96 samples were taken for methylene blue test at the Pathological Department, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, and the following table shows the results obtained:—

<i>Samples Taken</i>		<i>No. which failed</i>		<i>% failures</i>
Designated	.. 58	Methylene Blue test	.. 11	19%
Non-Designated	38	„ „ „	.. 6	16%

The number of failures amongst non-designated milks is a considerable improvement on the 1950 figures, but is still high. The failures amongst designated milks occurred almost solely in one producer's milk and, after representations had been made to the retailer concerned, this supply was discontinued.

(c) *Clean Food Campaign.* Reference to Appendix "F" will show the amount of attention given to the question of clean food and during the summer season, activities of the department were extended to supervision of boarding houses in addition to other catering establishments. In this connection there was close liaison with the Council's Information Bureau and a few complaints had to be investigated. It is appreciated that a town's reputation can be made or ruined by the impression its visitors gain in the various establishments catering for the holiday trade. The department feels that the ideal would be for all these premises to be "vetted" before the Council accepted advertisements for the Town Guide.

Refuse Collection and Disposal. No major change was made in the scavenging service during the year and, despite the increase in the number of premises to be served and a substantial seasonal demand from catering establishments, the department was remarkably free from complaints on the score of non-collection of refuse. (There are, of course, a few residents who expect their refuse to be collected on Bank Holidays).

The weekly collection of refuse from all domestic premises was very well maintained, as was the more frequent collection from business premises. These latter varied according to the nature of the business carried on, e.g. fishmongers' premises were visited daily.

In unsewered parts of the Borough, night soil is removed twice weekly from premises without W.C.'s. It is hoped that, with the provision of a sewer at Gulval and the extension of the sewer at Paul to serve the Sheffield area, many houses will soon be provided with W.C.'s and the collection of night soil be rendered unnecessary.

Five Karrier "Bantam" refuse lorries were employed on this service, each having two loaders and a driver, and it is estimated that in the year under review, some 6,300 tons of house and trade refuse were removed.

The disposal of this refuse was by controlled tipping at the Eastern Green site and three men were employed here for this work. Whilst it can be claimed that the tip is being controlled in an efficient manner it must be admitted that the experiment is a costly one. Considerable drainage work, which has had to be carried out to prevent flooding of the back land and the haulage of coal residue from the Electricity Works at Hayle for preliminary covering of the surface and sides of the tip and the excavation and transport of soil from the Alverton building site for final covering down, have been expensive items in the management of the tip.

It is a great pity that once the final covering with soil has been completed the land is not brought back into cultivation. In this way at least some benefit would accrue from the large sum expended on the site. As it is the first field so covered has remained uncultivated for two years and, in this time, has grown a succession of crops of weeds to the detriment of the area.

It is estimated that the annual cost of collection of refuse was £7,500 and of its disposal £4,800.

No salvage of waste materials was carried out by the Council but a considerable amount of salvage was recovered by voluntary bodies during the year.

Rodent Control. One full-time Rodent Operative was employed during the year. Methods of treatment were strictly in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recommendations and included poisoning and trapping.

No charges are made for the treatment of dwelling-houses.

In addition to treatment for surface infestation, two treatments of the sewers of the Borough were carried out and also a 10% "Bait" of the whole system. Sixty-two manholes were baited.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during 1951:—

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling- houses</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>	<i>All other including business and industrial</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of properties inspected ..	38	197	1	87	323
No. of properties found to be infested	38	106	1	59	204
No. of properties treated by Local Authority ..	38	185	—	79	302

A summary of the work of the department is shown in the Appendix "F."

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. T. HARPER,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDIX A

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1951 (Corrected Notifications)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Penzance</i>	<i>West Penwith</i>	<i>St. Ives</i>	<i>St. Just</i>
Measles	542	262	68	179
Scarlet Fever	40	11	12	—
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	21	34	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	2	—	—
Diphtheria	3	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	17	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	7	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—
Rheumatic Fever	2	—	—	—
Rheumatic Arthritis	—	—	1	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1951

<i>Area</i>	<i>Number of Children who Completed a full Course of Immunisation in 1951</i>			<i>Number of Children Receiving Refresher Doses</i>
	<i>Under 5</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Penzance	261	32	293	378
St. Ives	86	1	87	58
West Penwith	288	75	363	626
St. Just	62	7	69	81

APPENDIX B
TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS—1951

		No. on Register at 31.12.51.	1—5	5—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Total
PENZANCE	M. Pul.	73	—	1	—	1	3	2(2)	3(2)	2	12(4)
	F. Pul.	60	—	3	3	—	2(1)	2(3)	2(1)	1(1)	13(6)
	Non. Pul.	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1(1)	2(1)
	Non. Pul.	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WEST PENWITH	M. Pul.	55	—	1	—	—	3	1	3	—(2)	8(2)
	F. Pul.	36	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	—(1)	5(1)
	Non. Pul.	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Non. Pul.	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—(1)	1(1)
ST. JUST	M. Pul.	36	—	—	—	—	—	1	5(2)	5(1)	11(3)
	F. Pul.	17	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3(—)
	Non. Pul.	3	—	—	—	—(1)	—	—	—	—	—(1)
	Non. Pul.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1(—)
ST. IVES	M. Pul.	32	—	—	—	1	—	—	1(2)	—	2(2)
	F. Pul.	21	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1(1)	2(1)
	Non. Pul.	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Non. Pul.	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Notifications		...	...	...60	Total Deaths (In Parenthesis)			...	...	...	22

APPENDIX C **COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

PENZANCE				1948	1949	1950	1951
<i>Year</i>							
Population	..	..	..	19,920	20,080	20,210	20,030
Total Death	..	..	..	258	289	335	312
Principal Causes of Death:							
Heart Disease	..	..	..	88	86	132	94
Cancer	..	..	..	38	53	56	52
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	38	38	39	37
Pneumonia	..	..	..	10	8	18	15
T.B. Resp.	..	..	..	9	5	11	8
Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	11	23	21	14
Infant Mortality Rate	..	..	..	30.6	45.75	70.0	40.4

APPENDIX D **Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948**

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>In-spections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	54	52	6	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	69	4	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	5	—	—
Total	143	126	10	1

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1).	9	9	—	—	1
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3).	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.):—					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	10	—	—	1

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Out-work

SECTIONS 110 AND 111

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list req'd by Section 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc. ..	21	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	21	1	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX E

HOUSING

The following table gives details of houses under control of the Council as at end of the year 1951:—

	<i>Occupied</i>	<i>Under Repair</i>	<i>Allocated</i>	<i>Awaiting Allocation</i>	<i>Total</i>
Parc Wartha	58	—	—	—	58
Penalverne	170	—	—	—	170
Gwavas	242	—	—	—	242
Treneere	396	—	—	1	397
Temporary Bungalows (Treneere and Cherry Gardens) ..	49	—	—	1	50
Alverton	198	—	—	—	198
Mousehole	9	—	—	—	9
Miscellaneous Tenancies ..	36	—	—	—	36
Finance Properties	32	—	—	—	32
Quarterly and Monthly Tenancies	14	—	—	—	14
Requisitioned Tenancies ..	52	—	—	2	54
	1,256	—	—	4	1,260

Number of persons who completed applications under the Points Scheme at end of December, 1951—591.

<i>No. of Houses built by the Council</i>	<i>No. of Houses built by Private Enterprise</i>
87	7

APPENDIX F **SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.**

1. Complaints which received attention	186
2. Public Health Act, 1936.	<i>Inspections and visits</i>
Sewers and Drains	142
Drain Tests	17
Sanitary Conveniences	168
Water Supplies	48
Water Samples	139
Refuse collection and disposal	180
Nuisances	440
Offensive Trades	17
Streams and watercourses	46
Infectious Diseases	113
Treatments	16
Places of Public Entertainment	2
Verminous premises	31
Camping Sites	28
Treatments	12
Bathing Pool	1
Samples	2
3. Factories Act Inspections.	
Routine	112
Sanitary Accommodation	14
Means of Escape in case of Fire	—
4. Shop Acts Inspections.	
Routine	34
5. Housing Act Inspections.	
Unfit Houses	202
Premises overcrowded	6
For overcrowding purposes.. .. .	18
Re applications for Council house	108
6. Milk and Dairies Regulations.	
Inspections of Dairies.	101
Milk Samples collected—Designated	58
Non-designated	38
7. Diseases of Animals Act.	12
8. Food and Drugs Act Inspections.	
Food preparing premises	121
Food stores and shops	775
Markets	376
Fish stalls, markets and stores	53
Fried fish shops	44
Restaurants and restaurant kitchens (including boarding-houses)	115
Bakehouses	63
Licensed premises	31
Food poisoning enquiries	4
Ice Cream shops and manufacturing premises	89
Ice Cream samples	89
8. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.	
Inspection of Dwelling houses	68
Inspection of Business premises	129
9. Miscellaneous visits and Inspections.	299
10. Notices served—Informal	50
Statutory	8
11. Notices complied with—Informal	35
Statutory	6

APPENDIX G

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Number killed	1890	1044	1044	2759	462	<i>T. C. lbs</i>
Number Inspected	1890	1044	1044	2759	462	
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	13	19	10	13	9	} 18 6 27
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	517	486	6	267	19	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	28.0	48.4	1.5	10.1	6.1	
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	35	77	—	—	2	} 38 10 42
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	207	251	—	—	16	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12.8	31.4	—	—	3.9	
TOTAL WEIGHT						<u>56 16 69</u>

Note:—

Under the heading “Cattle excluding Cows” are included Bulls, Steers, Heifers and Cow-heifers.

No. of visits to slaughterhouses 2162

OTHER FOOD REJECTED

									<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Fish..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	21
15 Poultry ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			83
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		12	91
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			29
Sugar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	13
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			101
Dried fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		3	88
Cereals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	51
Flour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		3	30
Cake and pudding mixture	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		4	75
Biscuits and cake ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			111
434 Xmas puddings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		6	85
Cooked Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			41
Jellied chicken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			106
Sausages and black puddings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			66
Tripe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	80
3093 canned goods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	0	32
2035 Glass packed goods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		9	40
Other Miscellaneous goods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	42
TOTAL WEIGHT	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	13	65

Total number of Condemnation Certificates issued in respect of Meat and other foods—1,494

